

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A rules engine, comprising:
 - a. an input circuit for receiving at least one transaction; and
 - b. a storage medium ~~having storing rules~~ and a plurality of preset outcomes stored ~~thereon~~, at least one rule having ~~[[a]]~~ the plurality of preset outcomes appropriate to a transaction; transaction capable of being selected by a user

wherein:

the at least one rule has an assigned outcome selected from the plurality of preset outcomes, and

a user is allowed to change the assigned outcome from a first one of the preset outcomes to a second one of the preset outcomes.
2. (Currently Amended) The rules engine of claim 1, in which one ~~outcome~~ of said plurality of preset outcomes includes providing warning information to a user.
3. (Currently Amended) The rules engine of claim 1, in which one ~~outcome~~ of said plurality of preset outcomes includes prohibiting execution of an order requested by said transaction.
4. (Currently Amended) The rules engine of claim 1, in which one ~~outcome~~ of said plurality of preset outcomes includes forwarding the at least one transaction to a user for approval.

5. (Currently Amended) The rules engine of claim 1, in which one outcome of said plurality of preset outcomes includes automatic approval of an order submitted with said transaction.

6. (Currently Amended) A rules engine, comprising:

- a. an input circuit for receiving at least one transaction; and
- b. a storage medium having rules and a plurality of preset scope stored thereon, at least one rule having ~~[[a]]~~ an assigned scope of ~~application which can be selectively set by a user~~ application selected from the plurality of preset scope;

wherein a user is allowed to change the assigned scope from a first one of the plurality of preset scope to a second one of the plurality of preset scope.

7. (Currently Amended) The rules engine of claim 6, in which the assigned scope of application is ~~capable of being~~ set to the account level.

8. (Currently Amended) The rules engine of claim 6, in which the assigned scope of application is ~~capable of being~~ set to the registered representative level.

9. (Currently Amended) The rules engine of claim 6, in which the assigned scope of application is ~~capable of being~~ set to the office level.

10. (Currently Amended) The rules engine of claim 6, in which the assigned scope of application is ~~capable of being~~ set to the firm level.

11. (Currently Amended) The rules engine of claim 6, in which the assigned scope of application is ~~capable of being~~ set to the global level.

12. (Original) The rules engine of claim 6, in which a rule is accompanied by a message to be sent when a rule is violated.

13. (Currently Amended) The rules engine of claim 12, in which the text of said message can be changed by ~~[[an]]~~ a user for a selected level.

Claims 14 and 15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a transaction comprising the step of checking transaction ~~The method of claim 15, in which the rules are applied by~~ first applying rules at the account lever, then rules at the registered representative level, then rules at the office level, then rules at the firm level and then rules at the global level.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[15]]~~ 16, in which the rules include compliance rules.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a. a client process for generating and sending a transaction containing an order for execution;

b. a rules engine for receiving said transaction from said client process and applying at least one user configurable rules to said transaction; and

c. at least one execution process for receiving said order from said rules engine and for executing the order, when the application of rules by said rules engine results in an approved outcome,

wherein said at least one user configurable rule comprises at least one rule having an assigned outcome selected from a plurality of preset outcomes, and

a user is allowed to change the assigned outcome from a first one of the plurality of preset outcomes to a second one of the plurality of preset outcomes ~~with user configurable outcomes.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, in which the assigned outcome ~~is user configurable outcomes are~~ selected from a group comprising:

- (1) forwarding the order to a process for execution,
- (2) forwarding the order to a user for approval,
- (3) providing a warning to a user about the order, and
- (4) rejecting the order.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, in which forwarding the order to a process for execution includes forwarding the order to a selectable one of

- (1) a process for executing stock or option trades,
- (2) a process for executing mutual fund trades, and
- (3) a process for executing trades in fixed income instruments.

22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

- a. a client process for generating and sending a transaction containing an order for execution;
- b. a rules engine for receiving said transaction from said client process and applying at least one user configurable rules to said transaction; and
- c. at least one execution process for receiving said order from said rules engine and for executing the order, when the application of rules by said rules engine results in an approved outcome,

wherein said at least one user configurable rule comprises at least one rule having an assigned scope selected from a plurality of preset scope, and

a user is allowed to change the assigned scope of application from a first one of the plurality of preset scope to a second one of the plurality of preset scope with user configurable scope of application.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) Apparatus comprising:

- a. a client process for generating and sending a transaction containing an request to transfer assets between accounts;
- b. a rules engine for receiving said transaction from said client process and applying at least one user configurable rule to said transaction, wherein the at least one user configurable rule includes at least one rule with user configurable scope of application, or at least one rule with a user configurable outcome; and

c. at least one execution process for receiving said request from said rules engine and for transferring assets as requested, when application of rules by said rules engine results in an approved ~~outcome~~ outcome.

wherein

the at least one rule with user configurable scope of application includes an assigned scope of application selected from a plurality of preset scope; and

a user is allowed to change the assigned scope from a first one of the plurality of preset scope to a second one of the plurality of preset scope;

and

wherein:

the at least one user configurable rule comprises a rule having an assigned outcome selected from a plurality of preset outcomes, and

a user is allowed to change the assigned outcome from a first one of the plurality of preset outcomes to a second one of the plurality of preset outcomes.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, in which said at least one user configurable rule comprises at least one rule with user configurable scope of application.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, in which said at least one user configurable rule comprises at least one rule with user configurable parameters.

Claims 27 and 28 (Cancelled)